

OUTGOING MESSAGE

Approved For Release 2005/06/09 : CIA-RDP78S01932A000100240083-1

SIGNAL CENTER USE ONLY

AGE CQL ACP TOG TPE MRO TRI

PAGES

25X1

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CLASSIFICATION

SECRET

CIA/OCI

WHIZWH 740522

MESSAGE HANDLING INDICATOR

DATE-TIME GROUP

CITE

MESSAGE REFERENCE NUMBER

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SOURCE REF:

1		4		7		10	
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25X1

ITEM NO:

UH-4

DATE: 22 MAY 1974

SUBJECT:

TENSIONS BETWEEN GREECE AND TURKEY

25X1

THERE ARE SEVERAL RECENT REPORTS THAT ATHENS IS INCREASING ITS MILITARY READINESS, PROBABLY BECAUSE OF THE DISPUTE WITH TURKEY OVER RIGHTS TO THE AEGEAN SEAS. MEASURES TAKEN SO FAR APPEAR TO BE CONTINGENCY ACTIONS AND REFLECT PRECAUTIONARY RATHER THAN OFFENSIVE INTENTIONS. ACCOMPANYING THESE MILITARY MOVEMENTS HAVE BEEN STATEMENTS BY GREEK LEADERS, BOTH MILITARY AND POLITICAL, THAT ATHENS WILL NOT INITIATE HOSTILITIES, BUT WILL, AS A LAST RESORT, FIGHT FOR ITS RIGHTS IN THE AREA.

ANKARA HAS PLAYED THE DISPUTE IN LOWER KEY, POSSIBLY IN THE HOPE THAT THE GREEKS WILL TAKE UP ITS OFFER TO NEGOTIATE. THE GREEKS MAY NOT WANT TO HOLD DISCUSSIONS, HOWEVER, UNTIL AFTER THE

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DIA review(s) completed.

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LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE NEXT MONTH, WHICH THEY MAY BELIEVE WILL LEND SUPPORT FOR THEIR STAND ON THE PROBLEM. THE TURKS IN THE MEANTIME INTEND TO KEEP ASSERTING THEIR RIGHTS TO THE UNDERSEA MINERALS THAT MIGHT BE PRESENT IN THE AREA.

THE TWO COUNTRIES ARE MASTERS OF DRINKBANDSHIP, AS THEIR PERFORMANCE IN THE VARIOUS DISPUTES OVER CYPRUS HAS SHOWN. MINOR INCIDENTS INVOLVING "INTRUSIONS" BY EITHER SIDE INTO THE DISPUTED AREA COULD TRIGGER MORE SERIOUS FIGHTING. AT THE SAME TIME NEITHER SIDE COULD APPEAR TO WANT FULL-SCALE WAR.

IF THE IMPORTANCE OF THE UNDER-SEA MINERALS IS WHAT LIES BEHIND THE GROWING ANTAGONISM, COOLER HEADS MAY PREVAIL TO PREVENT FIGHTING FOR AS YET UNPROVEN OIL RESERVES.

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